the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time. No change is presently envisaged in the rate of duty on palm oil.

Telephone facilities in villages of U.P.

*233. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh which have not been provided with telephone facilities as yet; and

(b) by when this is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) There are 103396 revenue villages in the State of U.P. Out of these, 97170 villages have already been provided with telecom facility by BSNL as on 31.01.2003. Out of 6226 uncovered villages, 6021 are uninhabited villages. In the remaining 205 villages, the custodians could not be finalised due to factors like court cases, factional rivalries within the village, other local disputes etc. The Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in these 205 villages shall be provided as and when the disputes get settled.

Maintenance of NH-57

†*234. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether road from Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur, particularly from Sakri to Jhanjharpur on National Highway-57 is in a dilapidated condition and not suitable for transport;

(b) whether any funds have been allocated for repair and strengthening of the road;

(c) if so, the details of the amount allocated/spent, so far; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi